



Trustee Alexander Brown

Ward 12, Willowdale



Welcome to the 2017-18 school year.

My name is Alexander Brown. I am proud to represent you and your family at the Toronto District School Board.

As your school Trustee, I am here to keep you informed and involved with all aspects of your child's education. It's important that we get to know each other and communicate often.

Throughout the year, I make an effort to meet people at school council meetings, special ward forums and student events. I'm always available to meet face-to-face and talk about your ideas and concerns. Your feedback influences decisions I make about policy, finances and programs at the TDSB.

In this letter, I've provided some relevant back-to-school news and a link to a webpage with key information and resources including homework tips and the school year calendar. Learn more at www.tdsb.on.ca/needtoknow ... And for detailed updates, you can sign up for my Monthly E-newsletter at www.tdsb.on.ca/ward12/Ward12.aspx. It contains a wide array of information about the TDSB, important notices and ways to get involved. I also encourage your submissions – stories, opinions and ideas – that I will include in the newsletter each month.

Finally, if you want to gain a better understanding of our education system and ensure your voice is included on issues like Special Education, transportation and equity you should think about joining a school council, a board committee or volunteering in some other way. As parents/guardians, you are the best advocates for your children's education. . . I'm happy to provide more information and help you get started. You can also contact your school or visit the TDSB website at www.tdsb.on.ca.

Remember... "Education is a shared experience between dedicated teachers, motivated students and enthusiastic parents with high expectations" (American politician)... I'm here to help meet those expectations. Thank you and I look forward to working in partnership with you this year.

Alexander

查阅完整的国语翻译, 请登录 www.tdsb.on.ca/ward12

한국어 번역본: www.tdsb.on.ca/ward12

برای ترجمه کامل به زبان فارسی لطفاً به این وب سایت مراجعه کنید www.tdsb.on.ca/ward12

Did You Know...?

Improving Access to School Bus Information for Toronto Parents

Beginning this year, TDSB parents/guardians with children who are transported by school buses can now access their children's transportation information online and receive email notifications if there are any school bus cancellations or delays, thanks to the launch of a new online transportation portal. GPS technology on all buses will be used internally between the bus operators and school boards at first, but this information will eventually be rolled out to all parents – hopefully within the next year or so. For more information and to register for the new services, please visit www.torontoschoolbus.org and select "Parents" from the top right hand corner of the screen. The portal is one of several improvements being made to transportation services to ensure an effective start to the 2017/18 school year.

Tackling Overcrowding in Schools - It's time to do something about it!

Last June, I met with Education Minister Mitzi Hunter about the growing concern over overcrowded schools in Willowdale. We discussed sources of funding including Education Development Charges (EDCs) from new residential developments. The Ministry does not support using EDCs to build and expand schools but parents in Willowdale are asking that something be done to address overcrowding, the growing use of portables and the lack of long-term funding for school infrastructure. **Minister Hunter has agreed to hold a meeting with Willowdale parents on October 30th, 2017 to provide details about the government's plan for funding. SAVE THE DATE!!** The Ministry has NOT confirmed the location or time yet. I will soon inform everyone once a time and location are confirmed. With a provincial election next June, we are looking for solutions not promises. Feel free to contact the Minister of Education directly **Tel: 416-325-2600 Email: mhunter.mpp.co@liberal.ola.org**. **I will also keep you informed about the date with a special announcement.** For more information about EDCs go to: fixourschools.ca/tag/education-development-charges

Have Your Say. . . Education Accessibility Standard - Online Survey

Addressing barriers that prevent students from meeting their full potential is the goal of the new Education Accessibility Standard that the Ministry of Education is committed to developing. Fully accessible schools go a long way to addressing an equity issue that has been neglected for too long. I fully support the Ministry's initiative to create more accessible schools and I look forward to hearing from you about it. Approximately 2500 people have already shared their feedback through an online survey. Please take the time to **consider some of the accessibility challenges at your child's school and complete the survey** before OCTOBER 16th, 2017. Feel free to share that information with me as well. Please use the following links to access the survey: English: www.surveymonkey.com/EducationSurveyEN French: fr.surveymonkey.com/SondageAccessibilite. Accessible Word Version available on request by emailing aoda.input@ontario.ca

Street Smarts Traffic Safety Poster Contest

Student Safety in school zones is a big concern for all of us. Traffic is a constant threat to safe school zones. I am inspired by the vigilance and efforts of school councils in Willowdale to find local solutions. They've got their work cut out for them!! This year, I plan to promote their efforts and get more students involved.

That's why I'm launching a **Street Smarts TRAFFIC SAFETY POSTER CONTEST** for all students in Grades 1 to 12 in three categories. The winning posters will be used throughout Willowdale schools and will be awarded at a special Traffic Safety Forum to be held on October 21st (Saturday) at Earl Haig Secondary School. 10 am - 1 pm. For **CONTEST DETAILS** go to www.tdsb.on.ca/ward12/Ward12.aspx or ask your teacher or principal. Have fun making streets safer.

Throughout the year, I will be working with school councils to plan other traffic safety initiatives, special community meetings, and guest speakers on road safety in school zones. I hope I will see you there.

Take a look at the City of Toronto [Vision Zero Road Safety Plan](http://www.toronto.ca). Go to www.toronto.ca

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Who to contact when you have questions or concerns about issues in the classroom, your school or the TDSB

1

Classroom Teacher

Step One

If you have any questions or concerns, the first person to go to is your classroom teacher. The classroom teacher can help with:

- Any questions about the classroom
- Classroom rules and consequences
- Homework and assignments



Your School trustee
Alexander Brown
Ward 12, Willowdale
416-395-8787
Alexander.Brown@tdsb.on.ca



Your School Superintendent
Elizabeth Addo
Learning Centre 2
416-394-3909
Elizabeth.Addo@tdsb.on.ca

2

School Principal

Step Two

If you would like more information or you have questions that are beyond the classroom, the school principal can help.

- Concerns about an individual school
- Student registration
- Student schedules
- Student suspensions
- Report card concerns
- Classroom concerns
- Code of Conduct
- Safety and security
- Budget and fundraising
- School Council

PA Days 2017-2018						
PA Days	October	November	December	January	February	June
Elementary	6	17	1	19	16	8, 29
Secondary	6	17	1		1*, 16	27*, 28, 29

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School Superintendents

Step Three

Superintendents are responsible for a Network of Schools. They support school staff and can be contacted if you have questions that have not been answered or for help with:

- Alternate attendance request
- Suspension appeals

PA Days & Holidays	Date
Labour Day	September 4, 2017
Board-wide PA Day	October 6, 2017
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Secondary School PA Day	June 28, 2018
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Trustees

Step Four

Trustees are your elected community officials. They are available to help you with the following areas of the TDSB:

- Concerns about your community
- Ideas and suggestions for the Board
- Items on Board Agenda
- Board policies under review
- Board budget
- Collective bargaining

Board Office

You can contact the Board Office directly for any questions or concerns related to:

- Continuing Education
- Night and summer school
- Adult education
- ESL
- Board documents

Phone: 416-397-3000 • Email: GeneralInquiries@TDSB.on.ca

*The first day of second semester is February 2, 2018. Secondary school calendar includes a PA day for semestered schools only on February 1, 2018 and a PA Day for full-year schools only on June 27, 2018.

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Your School Superintendent
Linda Curtis
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416-396-9172
Linda.Curtis@tdsb.on.ca

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Kathleen Garner
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416-396-9182
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Your School Superintendent
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